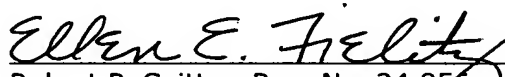


**Remarks/Arguments:**

Prior to a formal examination of the above-identified application, acceptance of the new claims and the enclosed substitute specification (under 37 CFR 1.125) is respectfully requested. It is believed that the substitute specification and new claims will facilitate processing of the application in accordance with M.P.E.P. 608.01(q). The substitute specification and new claims are in compliance with 37 CFR 1.52 (a and b) and, while making no substantive changes, are submitted to conform this case to the formal requirements and long-established formal standards of U.S. Patent Office practice, and to provide improved idiom and better grammatical form.

The enclosed substitute specification is presented herein in both marked-up and clean versions.

Respectfully submitted,

  
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RPS/EEF/krh

Attachments: Abstract

Dated: December 28, 2004

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## ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

The invention relates to a hydraulic power-assisted steering system comprising a steering gear and a hydraulic actuator for assisting actuation of the steering wheel by the driver of a vehicle, in particular a motor vehicle, comprising an electric motor which is coupled to the steering column and used as an additional torque actuator for actively applying an additional steering torque, also consisting of an electronic control and regulating unit (ECU), which includes a determination unit for determining a steering torque and an evaluating and selecting circuit, by means of which a total value for applying the additional steering torque is determined in consideration of the determined steering torque or a quantity derived therefrom and a selected basic characteristic curve of steering (basic characteristic curve), with the total value of the additional steering torque to be applied including a driver-dependent component and a driver-independent component.